

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application, with Claims 1-5 being independent claims. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Horowitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,866). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being as being unpatentable over Oran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,526) in view of Horowitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,866). Claims 1-5 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 2d paragraph.

Claims 1-5 are amended, as set forth herein, to further distinguish these claims from the reference art, cited by the Examiner. Claims 1-5 are further amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph.

The present invention provides a method for a user interface in a portable terminal wherein a user can directly invoke an intended function using a state indicator, as well as view the state representation of the state indicator, so that it is not necessary to designate a particular key for the function, thereby reducing operator confusion as to key functions. It provides for a plurality of functions to be registered to a single indicator. An RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator), alarm setting, arrival of an SMS (Short Message Service) message, battery strength, and call reservation setting, are just examples of the functions that can be registered to a single indicator. Then when a certain event, such as receiving an SMS or battery level dropping below a predetermined threshold occurs, the indicator is displayed. Upon the appropriate user input the registered function is invoked.

Horowitz teaches a system for checking conflicts associated with proposed new matters in an organization which deals with numerous clients, where the system uses stored data defining associations between existing parties to select persons associated with the existing parties and signal the potential problem to these select persons.

In response to two previous Office Actions, it was argued that the registering function for the present invention produces dynamic results. Horowitz teaches a single and static assignment (i.e., by clicking on the alarm, the evaluator always produces the same result, the same command to supply a list is executed where the list contains potential matters of conflict). With Horowitz, the list is the one and only function associated with the indicator. The individual matters of potential conflict are simply elements of the list. Horowitz responds to the change in status of the "list" function, but only that function.

In response to the previous Office Action, Claims 1-5 were amended to further emphasize this dynamic-static distinction. The Examiner in both instances has not accepted this dynamic-static distinction:

Horowitz teaches that when a status change occurs, such as the sending of an alarm signal when conflict search results are found, a corresponding state indicator, i.e. a flashing icon, is displayed; the state indicator, or icon, that is displayed has a registered function of displaying a list of potential matters which produced the conflict upon user selection; therefore, the registered function of displaying a list of potential matters for an alarm icon occurs when a status change for the alarm icon, such as receiving an alarm signal and causing the representation of the alarm icon to be change[d] from an icon that was not displayed, or hidden, to displaying a flashing alarm icon, occurs.”

It is respectfully submitted that this dynamic-status distinction is meaningful. To further emphasize this distinction, Claims 1-3 are amended as set forth herein to recite “a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator” and “registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator”. Claim 4 (and 5) is amended to recite “a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual message state indicator (alarm state indicator)” and “registering an individual message reading (alarm) function of the plurality of related to the message reading (alarm state) indicator”. Here the difference being emphasized is that Horowitz does not disclose a plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator. While Horowitz may register a single function related to a state indicator (i.e., providing a list) it does not disclose registering multiple and different types of functions. This distinction is important with respect to the ability to support streamlining and down-sizing portable terminals while continuing to increase the functionality of individual keys. With the present invention a single stroke of one key or a single input will reveal any of multiple and different functions related to the state indicator. User confusion involved in key manipulation is eliminated and keys for exclusive purposes need not be designed separately.

Because Horowitz does not disclose “providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator” and “registering one of the plurality of functions related the individual state indicator”, each and every element of Claims 1-3 is not taught by Horowitz. Similarly, Horowitz does not teach or suggest the corresponding elements of Claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 1-3 and 5 are patentably distinct from Horowitz.

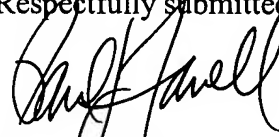
With respect to Claim 4, Oran discloses a system visual notification area to display visual notifications to a user. The notifications may be of events or may convey status information (Col. 4,

lines 51-55). As with Horowitz, only one function is registered for an individual indicator and only this individual function is invoked when the user inputs on a touch screen. Therefore, Horowitz in view of Oran does not disclose each and every element of Claim 4. Therefore, Claim 4 is believed to be patentably distinct from Horowitz in view of Oran.

Accordingly, it is believed that all claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-5.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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